

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A closing unit of a three-plate injection-molding machine comprising a die plate-(1), a movable mold-clamping plate-(2) and an end plate-(3), wherein the die plate-(1) and the end plate-(3) are connected to one another via tie bars-(4) on which the movable mold-clamping plate-(2) is displaceably guided, and wherein a toggle-lever arrangement-(5) on which a drive unit-(6) acts is provided between the end plate-(3) and the movable mold-clamping plate (2),

characterized in that

an encasing element-(13) of variable length extends between the end plate-(3) and the movable mold-clamping plate-(2).

2. (currently amended) A closing unit according to claim 1,

characterized in that

the encasing unit-(13) is constructed as a bellows.

3. (currently amended) A closing unit according to claim 1,

characterized in that

the encasing element-(13) is constructed as a lining comprising at least two tunnel-like sheet-metal parts-(14, 15, 16) that can be displaced telescopically relative to one another.

4. (currently amended) A closing unit according to claim 1,

characterized in that

the encasing element-(13) has an open structure in its lower region.

5. (currently amended) A closing unit according to claim 4,

characterized in that

~~the~~ a lower opening of the encasing element is disposed above a collecting trough.

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A closing unit according to claim 1,

characterized in that

the encasing element-(13) is braced ~~on~~by the tie bars-(4) between the end plate-(3) and the movable mold-clamping plate-(2).

8. (currently amended) A closing unit according to claim 1,

characterized in that

the length variability of the encasing element-(13) is limited to a partial region of its length.

9. – 10. (cancelled)